



Allies Against Asthma

"Making a positive difference in the lives of children with asthma"

August 15, 2002

Dear School Nurse:

Are you concerned about a child with asthma in your school? *Allies Against Asthma* of the King County Asthma Forum is excited to introduce *Team Asthma Goes to School* (TAGS), a consultative program that will help your school become a safe, healthful place for children with asthma. If there are children in your school who are struggling with management of their asthma, TAGS can help.

Asthma is the most common chronic childhood disease, affecting more than one child in 20. Among children ages 5 to 17, asthma accounts for 10 million missed school days per year and more hospitalizations than any other childhood disease. Many of those children also suffer unnecessarily in their ability to participate in normal childhood activities. A child whose asthma is well managed should be able to participate fully in all activities in which other children engage. TAGS can connect you with information and experts who can help with the clinical and environmental aspects of asthma management to ensure that children with asthma in your school thrive.

Through TAGS, qualifying children in your school can also be linked with a number of other programs coordinated by *Allies Against Asthma* and the King County Asthma Forum. Services provided by these programs include the following: community health workers to provide in-home asthma education, indoor air quality assessments, and care coordination; group asthma education and support programs; clinic-based asthma champions who ensure that optimal asthma care is provided to their patients; and many others. Additionally, TAGS can link your school with a number of proven curricula for addressing various issues related to asthma.

Please help us promote TAGS in your school! In this packet are brochures for distribution to other school employees or parents who may have a concern about asthma. Also enclosed are three TAGS posters. Please post these in areas that are highly traveled by school personnel and parents so they can also learn about our program. For ease of duplicating our materials, we are also sending you master copies of the brochures and posters.

Please note that there is no charge for TAGS services. For additional information about TAGS, or to schedule a school consultation, contact Maythia Airhart at 206-205-0523 or by email at somaythia.airhart@metrokc.gov. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

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